



City of Rowlett

Special Meeting Minutes

City Council

4000 Main Street
Rowlett, TX 75088
www.rowlett.com

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Thursday, July 25, 2013

6:35 P.M.

Municipal Building – 4000 Main Street

As authorized by Section 551.071 of the Texas Government Code, this meeting may be convened into closed Executive Session for the purpose of seeking confidential legal advice from the City Attorney on any agenda item herein.

The City of Rowlett reserves the right to reconvene, recess or realign the Regular Session or called Executive Session or order of business at any time prior to adjournment.

Present: Mayor Gottel, Mayor Pro Tem Kilgore, Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Gallops, Councilmember Phillips, Councilmember Pankratz and Councilmember Bobbitt

Absent: Councilmember Dana-Bashian

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Gottel called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- 2A. The City Council shall convene in Executive Session under Section 551.071 (Legal Advice) and Section 551.074 (Personnel) of the Texas Gov't Code, to seek legal advice from the City Attorney and to deliberate on the employment contract of a public official (City Manager).

Mayor Gottel stated "We are officially reconvening out of the Executive Session. The time is 7:09 p.m. We have a couple of action items to vote on this evening. And the first item is a motion to accept the resignation of Lynda Humble as City Manager consistent with the provisions of Article IX(a) of the Employee Agreement, which shall be effective immediately, waive the 30 day notice of resignation under Article XI of the Employee Agreement, and approve the Employee Separation Agreement outlining the terms of severance in accordance with the Employee Agreement. That's the first one. And then we'll talk about the appointment of the Interim City Manager. So with that, I need a motion to accept."

Councilmember Phillips replied "So moved."

Mayor Gottel stated "Do we have a second?"

Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kilgore.

Mayor Gottel stated "We have a motion by Mr. Phillips and a second by Mr. Kilgore. At this time, would you please raise your hands if you are in favor."

All Councilmembers that were present raised their hands.

Mayor Gottel stated "Let the record show it is an unanimous vote, a 6-0 vote in favor of accepting the resignation. Item 2 is to appoint Brian Funderburk as Interim City Manager. Do we have a motion to approve?"

Motioned by Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Gallops, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kilgore.

Mayor Gottel stated "All in favor again?"

All Councilmembers that were present raised their hands.

Mayor Gottel stated "And that item carries as well. Lynda, I wanted to take an opportunity to thank you for your service to the City of Rowlett. You were hired to create transformational change in this organization and you certainly have done that. You made a tremendous impact on the City; I call it an indelible mark on the City, and the employees, and everyone that you come in touch with. And as part of the Council that hired you in 2009, this was a very, very difficult decision for me. However, as any tough day, I would say good things come to an end, and we've had a lot of conversations. I certainly wish you the best. You will be greatly missed. On a very personal note, I am extraordinarily sad to see this day and you have done an amazing job with the organization. I want to highlight a couple of things like Realize Rowlett 2020. These are transformational things, not just for our City but any city, and especially Rowlett. Just the financial stewardship; we've gone through some really tough times. We're down \$1.8M decline in property tax but yet, we haven't touched services. We've not only maintained service, but in some cases, increased the level of services to the citizens. We have Rowlett. My Community. My Money. My Choice. An extraordinary program where you were able to take the people on a journey to talk about the tax rate and they come in and say 'I'm paying too much' and then when they leave, what was really interesting, I think like 77 percent of the participants agreed they would be willing to pay more because they value the services that they had. And that's a journey that they take and we've done a tremendous amount of education and it all points back to you and what you've done in this organization. And of course, you were a huge advocate for the citizens in DART and PGBT. And, I for one am very sorry to see this day and I certainly wish you the absolute best of luck.

City Manager Humble replied "I appreciate that."

Mayor Gottel stated "Absolutely. That's it."

Councilmember Phillips stated "I can't say anything more than what the Mayor has said. I agree completely. You will be missed."

Mayor Gottel replied "That's true."

Mayor Pro Tem Kilgore stated "I'll say a couple of things. I wanted to fight about this but I understand because we've been through this before. Three of us have lived it before. Or four of us have lived it. And when it all becomes about a person, you can't get squat done. It just brings the organization to a standstill. And we're at a very critical juncture in Rowlett's future. I am probably on the Council uniquely qualified to comment about dealing with Lynda because there is no one in this City that has been publically more vocally critical of her from time to time than me. We have butted heads on a number of occasions. Some of it here, some on the dais, and some of it very highly public, but the fact of the matter is, I think she's fantastic. And I'll go right along with Doug there; I'd give her a raise because at the end of the day, we take the vote and its 6-1 or 5-2 against me and we move on and we worry about the big things. And the big things have been taken extraordinarily well care of here and the advances that we've made in the last four and one-half years are just as extraordinary. In particularly in the context of what she inherited, what she's had to do to build a team, and all of the things that she didn't have time to program to happen on a reasonable schedule. And it's a fairly amazing performance. However, I'm perceiving an increased rant from some folks in the community and most unfortunately, that rant has now made it to the City Council. It sounds suspiciously like those of an emotionally and ethically challenged former official. There's no suggestion for problem-solving. There's no consideration of making things better; other than, just to do it my way. There's not been compromise, and worst of all, its fixated mostly on petty things in total disregard of the greater good. It's single-minded and it's personal. In fact, in some instances, these rants channel that former official to a degree that makes me wonder whether the speaker has done their due diligence before attempting to advance someone else's agenda, or whether they just lack the ability to engage in independent thought. Either scenario is troubling in my mind and raises questions about the messenger. I would welcome those comments if they were constructive, well taken, and offered an opportunity to discuss and debate legitimate issues and philosophical differences, but in a main, they don't. They are instead conclusory, without context and very argumentative. I'm not going to go down there to debate with you; you will need to come up to a higher level if you want any consideration. Regardless, there are great things happening and some greater things to come in the coming months. Contrary to the uninformed comments of some, we have Lynda and her staff to thank for that. There are members of this Council who may want change, may even recognize the need to do things differently but they're unwilling to invest either the money or human capital necessary to make it happen. In some cases, it's just a knee-jerk political ideology and in some cases, it's simply because they don't understand and in some cases, it's a combination. Adding to this mix is an undercurrent of personal agendas, special interests and pressure. I'm committed to seeing the vision through because I really believe it's Rowlett's only chance for sustainability. My eyes remain fixed on the prize and the greater good. I am so appreciative for the time we've had with Lynda. Thank you very much."

Mayor Gottel stated "Well said."

Councilmember Phillips stated "Nicely said."

Mayor Gottel stated "Carl, any comments?"

Councilmember Pankratz stated "It's actually something that Chris said and it's true. We all spend a lot of time on Council on this but every single day you and the employees are here and every single day, we hear really amazing stuff. And as much time that we spend in our 8 to 5 or 8 to later than 5 obviously, our time is not as focused as much as we want it to be but you live here. You know, there have been so many moments. The trash contract, I think was just beautifully orchestrated. I've said that many times. I think that for the most part, I've never seen a grudge, even if the vote didn't go your way. I think there are times where there was a 4-3 vote and maybe it didn't turn out the way you probably expected or wanted it to but you...I never thought that jaded our relationship in any way and I can still the next day send a request for information and we still work together. I like the fact that there really were never any grudges. Rowlett has had some tough decisions while we've all worked together and I think it was kind of the give and take on all of this that got us to where we hopefully needed to be and to where we are today. I didn't have prepared remarks but I'll just say Lynda, I've really enjoyed in a lot ways some of the stuff we did together and I wish you nothing but happiness and a fantastic future ahead."

City Manager Humble replied "I appreciate that."

Mayor Gottel stated "Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Gallops."

Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Gallops stated "As Doug said and I think Todd summed it up, my feelings."

Mayor Gottel recognized Councilmember Bobbitt.

Councilmember Bobbitt stated "Lynda, I didn't get to work with you very long, just a real quick sliver of time, but I can tell you that the meetings I've gone to in the public, outside of Rowlett, a lot of people talk about how you're such a wonderful City Manager and you're very well respected. Keep that in your heart when you go out and go 'people do like me and I do a good job'. I think you do a phenomenal job. You have a lot of to-go attitude and follow through."

City Manager Humble replied "Thank you."

Mayor Gottel noted for the record that Councilmember Dana-Bashian did not attend the meeting as she is on vacation.

City Attorney Berman stated "I think you indicated we would need to appoint an interim."

Mayor Gottel answered "Yes, we did. We had already voted on that. Brian will be the interim."

Mayor Pro Tem Kilgore stated "Do we need to give direction to the Mayor and City Attorney to get Brian's contract typed up?"


Mayor Gottel stated "Yes, we need to have that for the next Council meeting. Thank you, Chris. That concludes our meeting this evening. Thank you for coming and best of luck."

3. TAKE ANY NECESSARY OR APPROPRIATE ACTION ON CLOSED/EXECUTIVE SESSION MATTERS

The actions are located under Item 2A.

4. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Gottel adjourned the meeting at 7:21 p.m.



Todd W. Gottel, Mayor



Laura Hallmark, City Secretary

Date Approved: August 6, 2013

